

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00821 090124Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9928
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET MISSION DESIRE TO LEASE AUTOMOBILES IN
NEW YORK CITY

1. NIKOLAI FIRYUBIN, COUNSELOR, SMUN, HAS INFORMED US THAT SOVIET MISSION DESIRES TO LEASE SEVERAL AUTOMOBILES FOR USE BY SMUN OFFICIALS. VEHICLES WOULD BE LEASED IN USUAL WAY FOR 24-36 MONTHS. WE WOULD FURNISH NEW YORK DIPLOMATIC LICENSE PLATES FOR EACH LEASED VEHICLE. NEW YORK AUTHORITIES HAVE NO OBJECTION TO ISSUANCE OF DIPLOMATIC LICENSE PLATES. THIS PROCEDURE FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL OTHER MISSIONS.

2. ACCORDING TO FIRYUBIN, SOVIETS FEEL THAT IT IS VERY ADVANTAGEOUS TO THEM TO LEASE VEHICLES. LEASING COMPANY GUARANTEES CONTINUING FULL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS. FURTHERMORE, A FREE REPLACEMENT VEHICLE IS AVAILABLE IF AUTO BREAKS DOWN. LEASING COMPANY ALSO PROVIDES HIGH LIMITS OF INSURANCE LIABILITY. AT END OF LEASING PERIOD, VEHICLE MAY BE RETURNED AND EXCHANGED FOR A NEW ONE.

3. WE CALLED FIRYUBIN'S ATTENTION TO OUR NOTE OF AUGUST 1, 1967 TO SMUN ON TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS WHICH CONTAINS STATEMENT THAT SOVIET CITIZENS SUBJECT TO TRAVEL
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REGULATIONS MAY NOT HIRE UNCHAUFFERED AUTOMOBILES NOR MAY THEY CHARTER HELICOPTERS OR AIRCRAFT. IN DOING SO, WE ADVISED HIM THAT WE WOULD INFORM DEPARTMENT OF SOVIET MISSION'S INTENTIONS AND ASK IF THERE WERE ANY OBJECTIONS.

4. WE ARE OF OPINION THAT SOVIETS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO LEASE PASSENGER VEHICLES PROVIDED DIPLOMATIC LICENSE

PLATES FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ARE USED AT ALL TIMES.
THE LEASING OF VEHICLES HAS BECOME VERY COMMONPLACE IN
NEW YORK CITY AND ONLY PRACTICAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
LEASING AND FULL OWNERSHIP OF VEHICLE IS EXTENT OF OWNER-
SHIP.

5. DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS ARE REQUESTED. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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